THE HUMAN FLY™
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THE HUMAN FLY
CROSSFIRE!
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TM
S. BUSCEMA AUSTIN
TRAPPED BETWEEN TWO FORCES THE FLY BATTLES TO SAVE AN INNOCENT HOSTAGE!
A MrBC SCAN

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE HUMAN FLY!
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NIGHTMARE!
I WARNED DREIR NOT TO TRY AND TAKE MY DAUGHTER ALEXANDRA FROM ME AGAIN!
YOUR DAUGHTER?! BUT HE SAID LEXY WAS HIS --UNGHH!
WOK!
DON'T TALK BACK TO MR. MARTINET, RED, IT AIN'T HEALTHY!
BILL MANTLO WRITER
LEE ELIAS ARTIST
ROD SANTIAGO INKER
DENISE WOHL LETTERS
GEORGE BELL COLORS
ARCH GOODWIN EDITING

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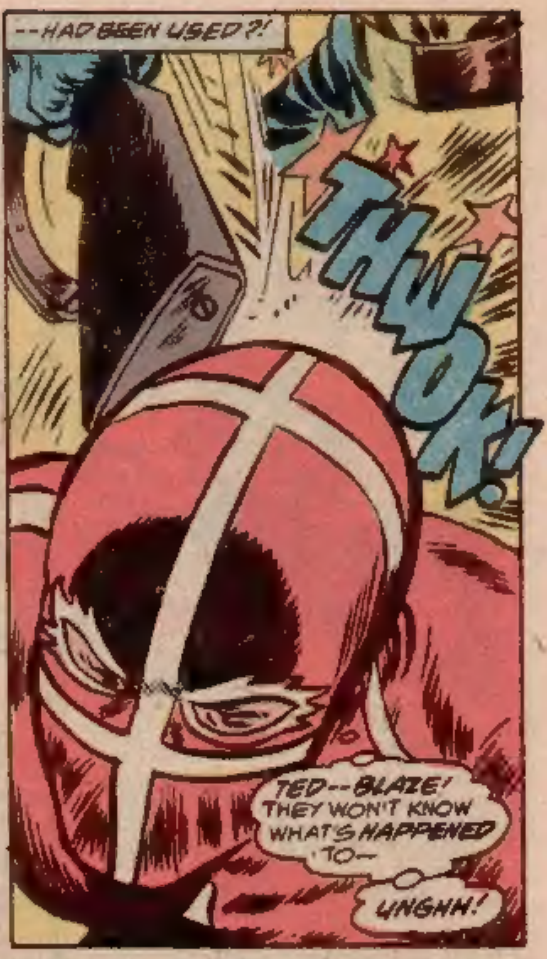
* WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY, AS YOU SAW IF YOU WERE HERE LAST ISH.
--ARCH

I RECOGNIZE HIM! HE'S THE HUMAN FLY--SOME KIND OF DAREDEVIL! FIGURES--
--DREIR WOULDN'T HIRE AN AMATEUR!
SWAP!
HOW MUCH IS HE PAYING YOU TO STEAL MY DAUGHTER FROM ME, FLY?!

NOTHING, MR. MARTINET! ONCE I HEARD THAT A POLIO-CRIPPLED GIRL WAS IN THE HANDS OF A MADMAN--
--I DONATED MY SERVICES!
HEY, WATCH IT-- HE'S--

AS HE FALLS BEFORE THE DRUGGED FORM OF ALEXANDRA DREIR, THE FLY RECALLS HER ALLEGED FATHER'S WORDS--THAT SHE WOULD BE SLAIN BY MARTINET WERE SHE NOT RESCUED!
DREIR ALSO CLAIMED HIS "DAUGHTER" HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED!



BUT, WHAT IF THE OPPOSITE WERE TRUE? WHAT IF SHE HAD ACTUALLY BEEN RESCUED FROM DREIR'S MANSION BY HER TRUE FATHER--MARION MARTINET? WHAT IF HE, THE HUMAN FLY--

GET RID OF HIM--AND GIVE THE ORDER TO MOBILIZE!
RIGHT, MR. MARTINET! GEEZ--THIS GUY HAD A HEAD LIKE A ROCK!
HE AIN'T GONNA BE WAKIN' UP FOR A LONG WHILE!

THE MASKED MAN GIVES NO ANSWER...

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--AND WE CUT HIGH ABOVE MARTINET'S MOUNTAIN FORTRESS TO WHERE THE FLY'S ASSISTANTS--TED LOCKE AND BLAZE KENDALL--PILOT THEIR PLANE THROUGH THE CLOUDS--
IT'S BEEN OVER AN HOUR SINCE THE FLY LAST COMMUNICATED WITH US, BLAZE!
AND JUST ONE MORE HOUR TO GO--
--BEFORE WE FOLLOW HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND CALL IN THE STATE POLICE!
TED, THE FLY SAID--IF IT CAME THAT--HE AND THE GIRL WOULD PROBABLY BE--DEAD!
WHILE, AT THE FOOTHILLS OF THE MIGHTY ROCKIES...
WELCOME TO DREIR MANSION MR. BERMAN--MS. WHYTE! MY HUMBLE HOME!
IT'S ABOUT AS HUMBLE AS THE WHITE HOUSE, SIR--
--AND TWICE AS SECURE! I CAN UNDERSTAND A MAN AS WEALTHY AS DREIR NEEDING BODYGUARDS--
--BUT THIS IS MORE LIKE A PRIVATE ARMY!
THIS DOESN'T MESH WITH THE STORY HE TOLD YOUR HERO, ARNIE!
DREIR PORTRAYED THE SITUATION AS A POLITICAL FEUD--NOT AN ARMED WAR!
AND HOW DID MARTINET KIDNAP DREIR'S DAUGHTER WITH ALL THESE GUARDS AROUND? MUCH AS I DISLIKE THE FLY, I THINK HE'S BEEN DUPED BY DREIR--AND BOTH HE AND THE GIRL MAY BE IN DANGER!
I CONCUR, MS. WHYTE! I THINK WE'D BEST NOTIFY THE AUTHORITIES OF OUR SUSPICIONS!

UH--I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO GET THE CHANCE, ARNIE!
PRECISELY, MS. WHYTE! BOTH YOU AND MR. BERMAN WILL STAY HERE TO INSURE THE FLY'S "LOYALTY"--
--SHOULD HE DISCOVER THAT THE STRUGGLE BE-MARTINET AND MYSELF IS FAR FROM POLITICAL!
COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER, WE HAVE BOTH BECOME TOO BIG-- WE HAVE EXHAUSTED ALL MARKETS!
WE ARE THE TWO WEALTHIEST MUNITIONS MANU-FACTURERS IN THIS STATE-- IN THE WORLD!
SO NOW YOU'RE GOING TO TRY AND KNOCK EACH OTHER OFF--AND YOU'RE USING THE FLY TO DISTRACT MARTINET--
--WHILE YOU PREPARE TO ATTACK HIS FORTRESS.
PARTIALLY, MR. BERMAN-- BUT THERE IS ALSO THE ISSUE OF MY DAUGHTER!
WHEN MARTINET DRAGGED HER INTO WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN A SIMPLE MONETARY POWER PLAY, HE ESCA-LATED OUR FEUD INTO A FULL-SCALE WAR!
ARNIE!
OHNH!

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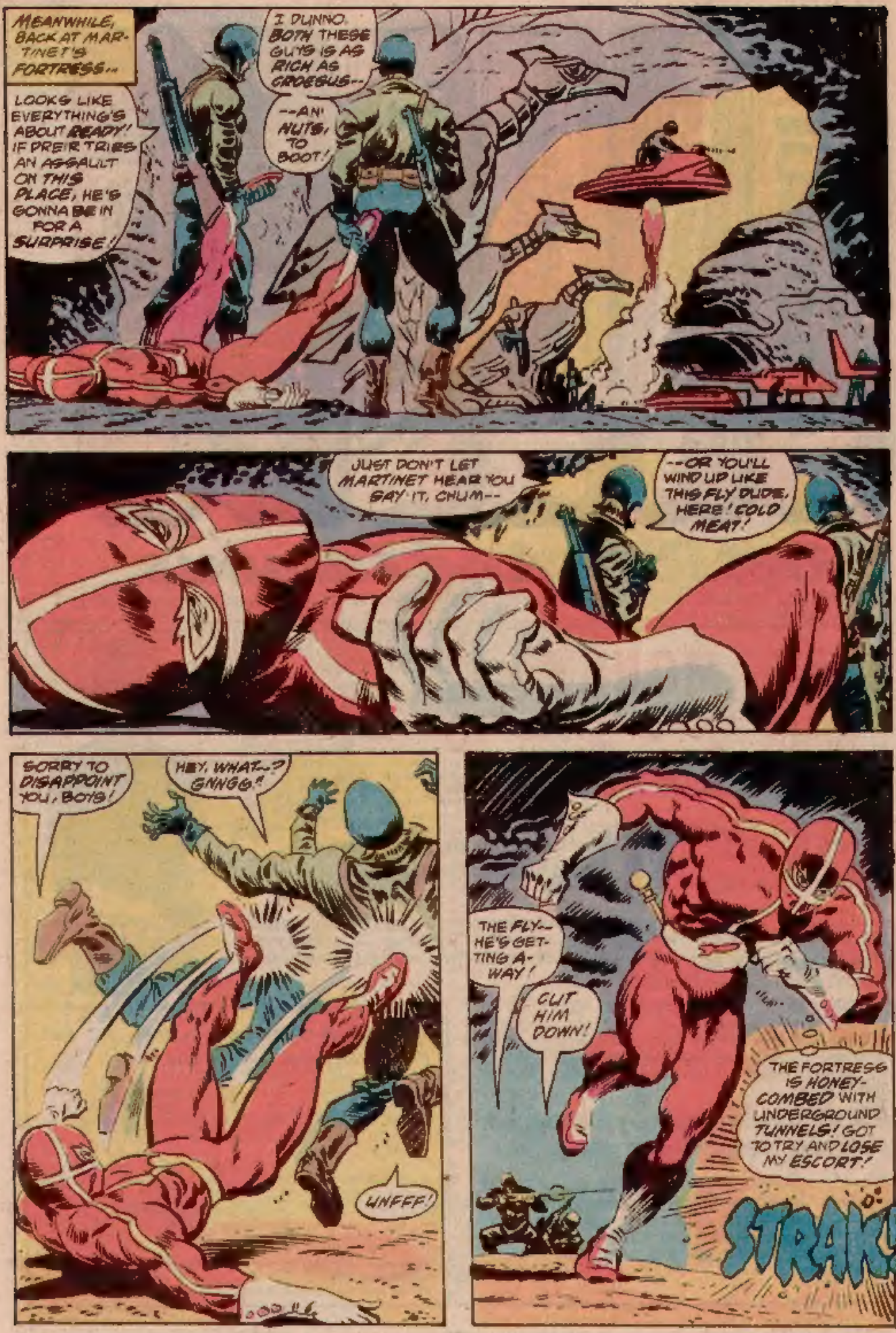
MEANWHILE, BACK AT MARTINET'S FORTRESS...
LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING'S ABOUT READY! IF PREIR TRIES AN ASSAULT ON THIS PLACE, HE'S GONNA BE IN FOR A SURPRISE!
I DUNNO. BOTH THESE GUYS IS AS RICH AS CROESUS--
--AN' NUTS, TO BOOT!
JUST DON'T LET MARTINET HEAR YOU SAY IT, CHUM--
--OR YOU'LL WIND UP LIKE THIS FLY DUDE, HERE! COLD MEAT!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BOYS!
HEY, WHAT--? GNGG!
UNFFF!
THE FLY-- HE'S GETTING AWAY!
CUT HIM DOWN!
THE FORTRESS IS HONEY-COMBED WITH UNDERGROUND TUNNELS! GOT TO TRY AND LOSE MY ESCORT!
STRAK!

OKAY, HE'S GOIN' DOWN THE CORRIDOR LIKE MARTINET WANTED!
THE POOR SUCKER! HE PROBABLY THINKS HE'S ESCAPIN'! HE DON'T KNOW WE LET HIM GO!

"ALMOST!"
THE FIRING'S STOPPED, BUT I DON'T DARE GO BACK!
I HAVE TO KEEP MOVING FOREWARD— HOPE THERE'S A WAY OUT OF THIS NATURAL MAZE!

FATHER, I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND! ALL THESE MEN-- THE GUNS-- THE UNIFORM YOU'RE WEARING! WHAT IS HAPPENING?
THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD TAKE YOU FROM ME, ALEXANDRA! I CANNOT ALLOW THAT!

ALEXANDRA STARTS TO PROTEST, BUT HER FATHER HEEDS HER NOT AS HE PULLS BACK ON A LEVER--

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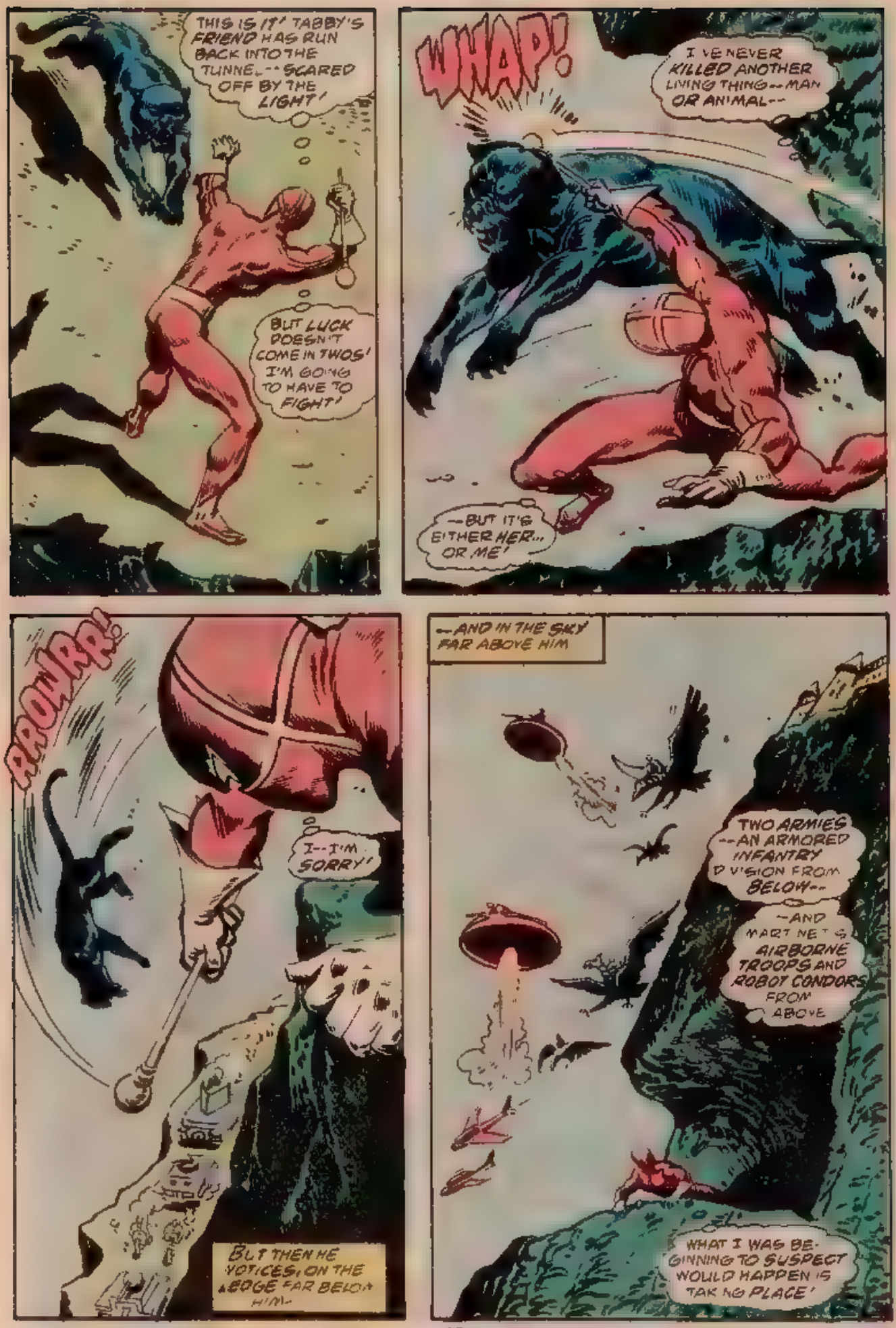
--AND IN THE CAVERNS BELOW...
RRRRRR
THE FLY DOES NOT NEED RADAR-SENSE TO REALIZE THAT HE'S WALKED INTO A TRAP!
HIS EYES, STRAINING THROUGH THE ENVELOPING GLOOM--
--HIS EARS DETECTING SOFT MOVEMENT--
--THE COLD SWEAT BREAKING OUT ON THE SKIN DOWN HIS SPINE--
--THE ACRID, OVERPOWERING FELINE STENCH IN HIS NOSTRILS--
--AND THE DRY TASTE OF FEAR--
ROWRRRR!
--ALL ALERT HIM TO THE SURREALISTIC DOUBLE MENACE THAT LEAPS FORTH FROM THE SURROUNDING SHADOWS--
--TO BE CAUGHT IN THE HARSH GLARE OF THE ELECTRIC-TORCH BUILT INTO THE HEAD OF HIS BATON!
GOOD LORD!

LIGHT TOOK THEM BY SURPRISE--CAUGHT THEM OFF GUARD! THEY CAN'T SEE--
--BUT THEIR CLAWS CAN STILL TEAR ME TO SHREDS IF THEY CONNECT!
HAVE TO ROLL BENEATH THEIR CHARGE--
RWROWRRR!
--AND MAKE SURE THEY DON'T!
THEY'RE DAZED--CONFUSED! BUT MY BATON-TORCH ISN'T GOING TO KEEP THEM AT BAY FOREVER!
AND I SEEM TO HAVE COME BOTH TO THE END OF THE TUNNEL--
--AND THE END OF SOLID GROUND AS WELL!
RRRRRRR!


THIS IS IT! TABBY'S FRIEND HAS RUN BACK INTO THE TUNNEL--SCARED OFF BY THE LIGHT!
BUT LUCK DOESN'T COME IN TWOS! I'M GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT!
WHAP!
I'VE NEVER KILLED ANOTHER LIVING THING--MAN OR ANIMAL--
--BUT IT'S EITHER HER... OR ME!
ARGHRR!
I--I'M SORRY!
BUT THEN HE NOTICES, ON THE EDGE FAR BELOW HIM--
--AND IN THE SKY FAR ABOVE HIM
TWO ARMIES --AN ARMORED INFANTRY DIVISION FROM BELOW--
--AND MARTINET'S AIRBORNE TROOPS AND ROBOT CONDORS FROM ABOVE
WHAT I WAS BEGINNING TO SUSPECT WOULD HAPPEN IS TAKING PLACE!

"MAD AS IT SOUNDS, THERE'S GOING TO BE A WAR IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS BETWEEN TWO INSANE MILLIONAIRES!"
THIS IS MY MOMENT OF GLORY, ALEXANDRA!
THE MOMENT I END DAVID DREIR'S STRANGLE-HOLD ON THIS STATE--
--AND OVER YOU.. FOREVER!
END--? OH, FATHER! NO, NO!
I WANT MY POWER BACK, MARTINET--UNRIVALLED! AND I WANT ALEXANDRA!
THEY BOTH CLAIM THE GIRL AS THEIRS!
TED--BLAZE! HOME IN ON MY RADIO FREQUENCY AND GET DOWN HERE..
MESSAGE ACKNOWLEDGED, FLY! HANG ON!
--WE'RE COMING DOWN!
THE PROP-PLANE, DESIGNED BY TED LOCKE, CONVERTS TO VERTICAL-TAKE OFF-AND LANDING--
--AND, FOLLOWING A FAINT RADIO SIGNAL, PENETRATES THE CLOUD COVER ABOVE THE WAITING HUMAN FLY!
I'VE GOT TO REACH MARTINET AND DREIR --STOP THIS INSANITY--
--BEFORE THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS BECOME A BATTLEGROUND..
--AND A GRAVEYARD!

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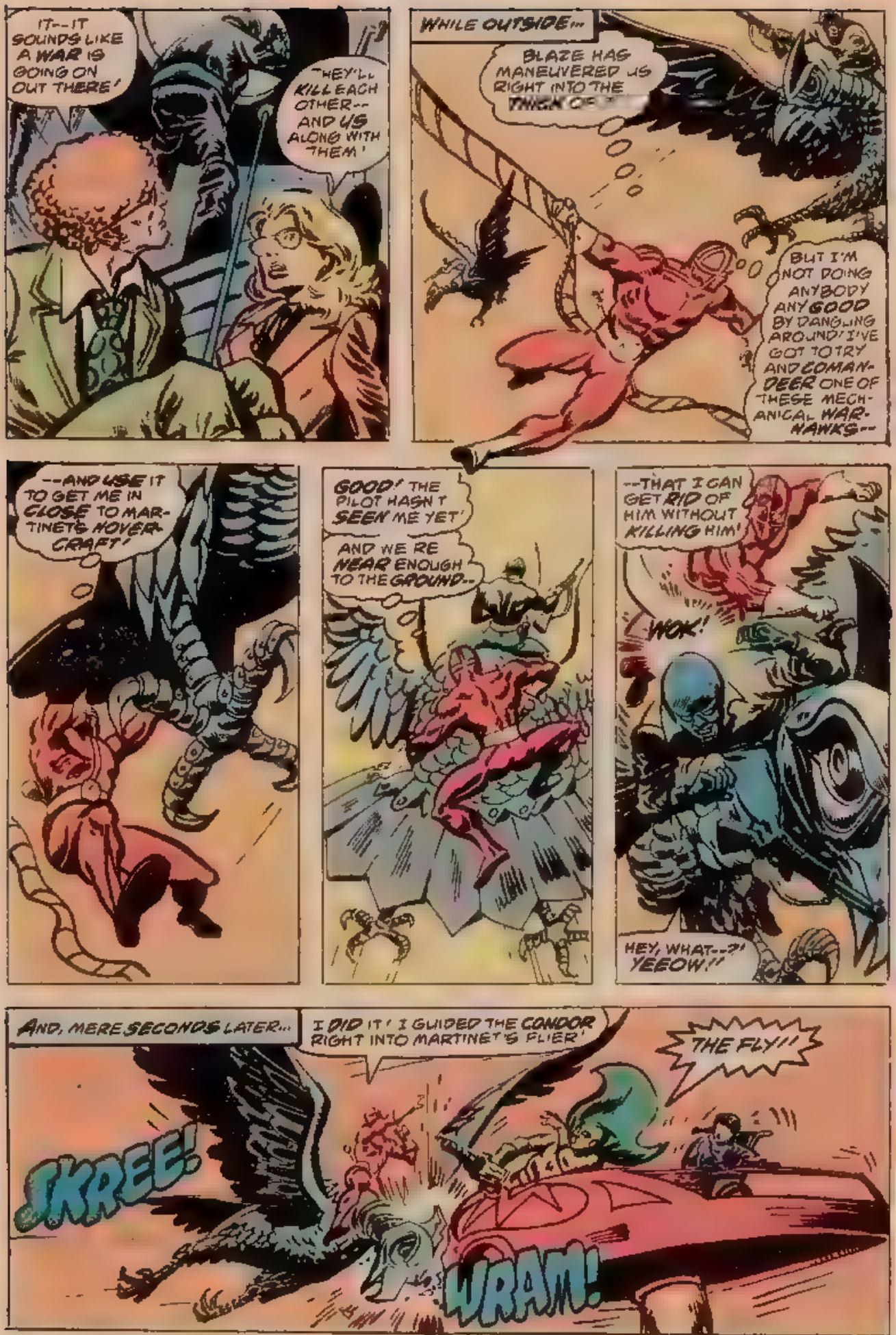
BUT THOSE TWO MEN--
NO, BOTH OF YOU-- IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN --PLEASE, STOP!
PLEASE!
--ARE INTENT UPON MAKING IT PRECISELY THAT!
AND, WITH THE MONEY AND [illegible] SOURCES OF MATERIAL AND MAN- [illegible] AT THEIR DISPOSAL, THEY JUST MAY SUCCEED!
YEAHH!
SKREE!
ZRAK!
TZAM!
SKREE!
YAAGHH!


IT--IT SOUNDS LIKE A WAR IS GOING ON OUT THERE!
THEY'LL KILL EACH OTHER-- AND US ALONG WITH THEM!
WHILE OUTSIDE...
BLAZE HAS MANEUVERED US RIGHT INTO THE
BUT I'M NOT DOING ANYBODY ANY GOOD BY DANGLING AROUND! I'VE GOT TO TRY AND COMMANDEER ONE OF THESE MECHANICAL WARHAWKS--
--AND USE IT TO GET ME IN CLOSE TO MARTINET'S HOVERCRAFT!
GOOD! THE PILOT HASN'T SEEN ME YET!
AND WE'RE NEAR ENOUGH TO THE GROUND..
--THAT I CAN GET RID OF HIM WITHOUT KILLING HIM!
WOK!
HEY, WHAT--?! YEEOW!!
AND, MERE SECONDS LATER...
I DID IT! I GUIDED THE CONDOR RIGHT INTO MARTINET'S FLIER!
THE FLY!!
SKREE!
WRAM!

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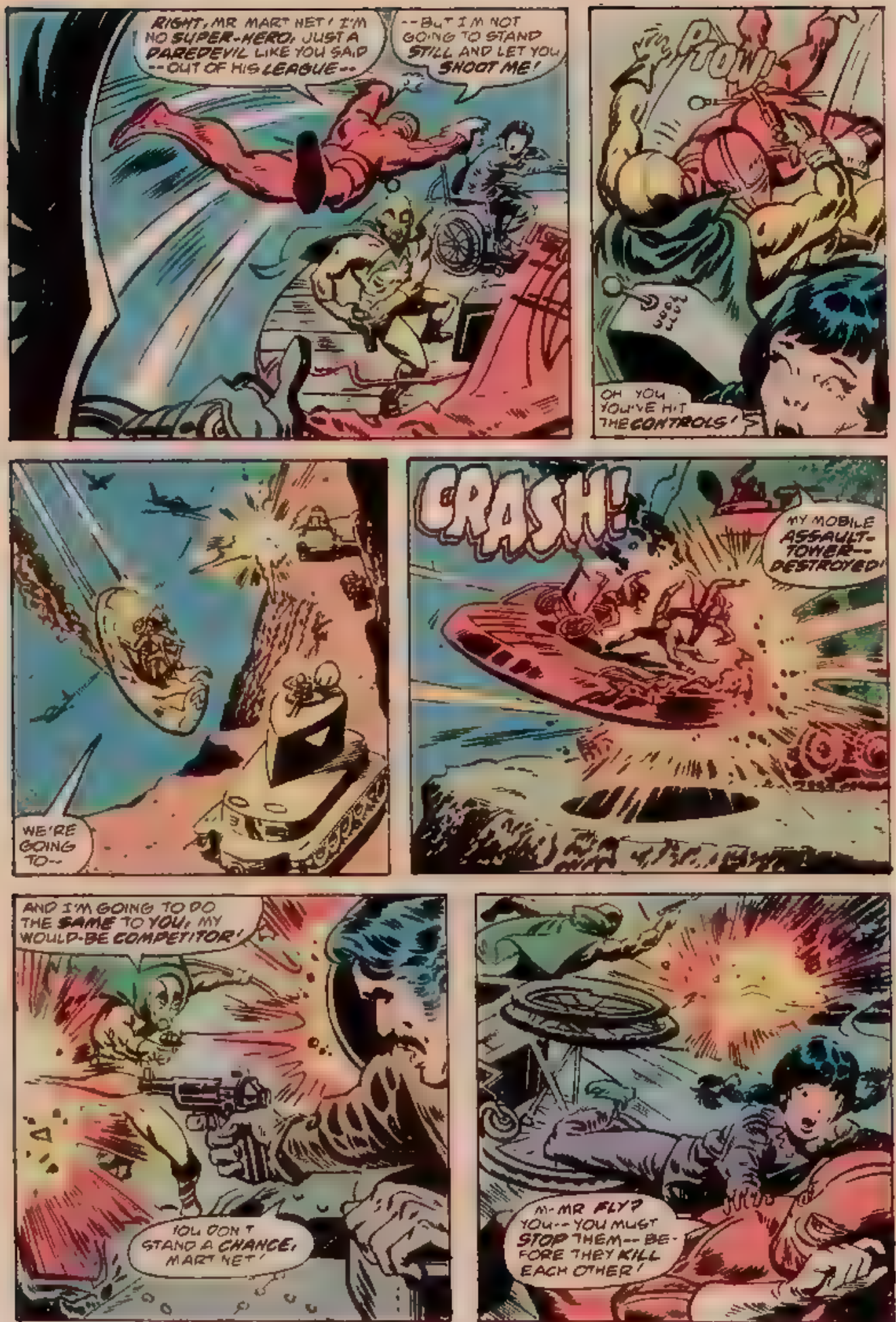
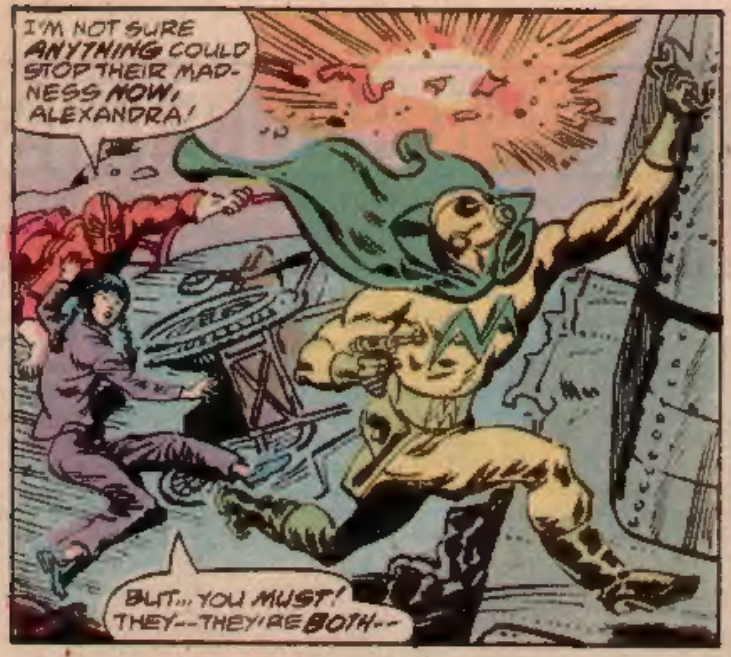
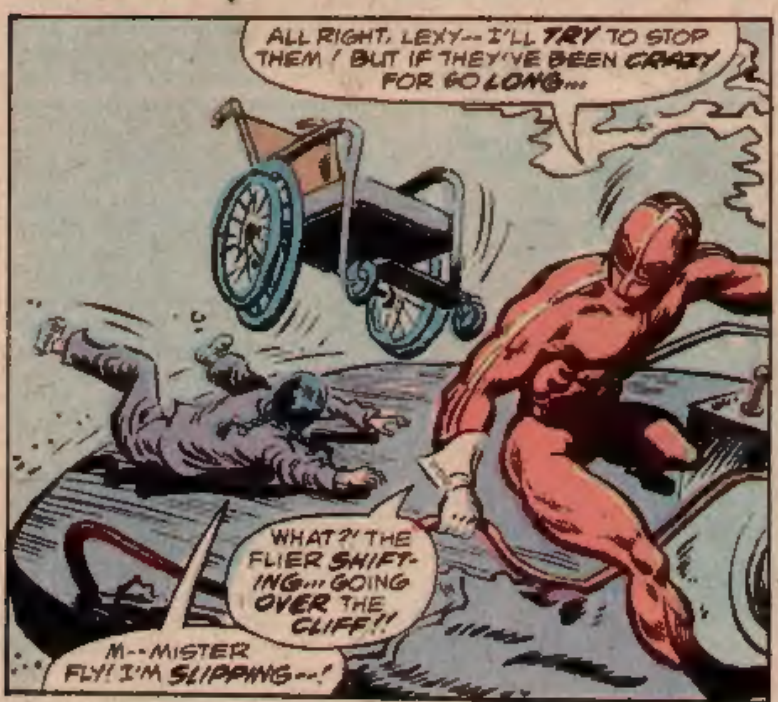

RIGHT, MR MARTINET! I'M NO SUPER-HERO, JUST A DAREDEVIL LIKE YOU SAID --OUT OF HIS LEAGUE--
--BUT I'M NOT GOING TO STAND STILL AND LET YOU SHOOT ME!
POW!
OH YOU YOU'VE HIT THE CONTROLS!
WE'RE GOING TO--
CRASH!
MY MOBILE ASSAULT-TOWER-- DESTROYED!
AND I'M GOING TO DO THE SAME TO YOU, MY WOULD-BE COMPETITOR!
YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE, MARTINET!
M-MR FLY? YOU--YOU MUST STOP THEM-- BEFORE THEY KILL EACH OTHER!



MY--MY MOTHER MARRIED MR DREIR! BUT, BY THE TIME I WAS BORN, SHE HAD SEEN HIM GROW COLD --THINKING OF NOTHING BUT MONEY!
SHE--SHE DIVORCED DADDY! TOOK ME WITH HER--
--AND MARRIED MY STEP-FATHER--MR. MARTINET!

BUT MOTHER'S WEALTH CHANGED HIM, TOO! THEY BEGAN TO COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER FOR HER LOVE, BOTH TRYING TO WIN HER--AND, WHEN SHE DIED, THEY TRANSFERRED THEIR COMPETITION TO ME!


ALL RIGHT, LEXY--I'LL TRY TO STOP THEM! BUT IF THEY'VE BEEN CRAZY FOR SO LONG...
WHAT?! THE FLIER SHIFTING... GOING OVER THE CLIFF!!
M--MISTER FLY! I'M SLIPPING--!

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HOLD ON, LEXY! HOLD ON!
I--I CAN'T! OH, FATHER-- STEP-FATHER-- PLEASE, HELP ME!
SHE'S FALLING! MY --OUR DAUGHTER! BEING TAKEN FROM US!
--JUST LIKE HER MOTHER--THE WOMAN WE BOTH LOVED!
LEXY! REACH OUT FOR ME, GIRL--NOW!
FOR THE NEXT FEW SECONDS TIME SEEMS TO HOLD ITS BREATH!
THE FLY GRABS THE FALLING GIRL, TWISTING AT THE SAME TIME FOR A HAND-HOLD ON THE CLIFF--
--AND, WITH THE SLIMMEST OF HOLDS--
--HE USES THE TERRIFIED CHILD'S OWN MOMENTUM TO HURL HER BACK UP AT THE RUINED FLIER!
LEXY! OUR DAUGHTER! IS SHE--
BRUISED --BUT SAFE! NO THANKS TO EITHER OF YOU!

AND, SOME MOMENTS LATER...
THERE'S ARNIE AND THE LADY NEWSHOUND! THE BATTLE MUST BE OVER!
WE CAN SET THE PROP-PLANE DOWN ON THE ROAD, BLAZE! IT'S WIDE ENOUGH.
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE EVEN THE P.R. MAN GOT TO SEE SOME ACTION!
ENOUGH TO LAST ME A LIFETIME, TED. IT'S A MIRACLE NO ONE WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED!
FLY, THE GIRL--?
SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT... SHE'S MOSTLY JUST FRIGHTENED... AND HEARTSICK! WE'LL DROP HER OFF AT A HOSPITAL ON OUR WAY BACK DOWN!
AS FOR HER "PARENTS"-- I THINK THEY'VE BOTH HAD ENOUGH OF THEIR LITTLE WAR-GAMES! I'M SURE THEY'LL SEE THAT SHE HAS THE BEST CARE--
--THAT MONEY CAN BUY!

NEXT MONTH: THE FLY AND THE INFERNO!

FLY PAPERS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

The mail keeps pouring in on Marvel's "wildest super-hero ever"...THE HUMAN FLY! As promised, we're working on a photo-feature for upcoming issues, as well as some kind of information corner on events in which the Fly will participate. Meanwhile, until we can get going all the projects we'd like, we'll just plug on ahead with the blockbuster new character that has set comics on its ear. Keep reacting, pilgrims...the Fly loves to hear from you!

Dear Bill and Carmine,

First you, Bill. I wrote you an involved letter last month where I explained what I saw as the problems inherent in portraying the Human Fly as a comic book character. But THE HUMAN FLY #2 overcame most of them. I could almost forget that the Fly is "real"—I still consider that fact that he's not a fictional character a psychological factor working against you. This issue you thankfully treated him as a normal character, instead of the human deity treatment I saw last month. Finally, the plot didn't center around his stunts, but around a crook and a serious threat to the Fly's life. Keep to this method, and I may yet like this mag. Another problem, though—with the marvelous exception of Harmony, the supporting cast is stiflingly dull, though I'm not sure what you can do to make them more interesting that hasn't been done a million times before in a million other mags. I have great respect for you as a writer, Bill, but I think you're up against a lot of challenges, the main one being the Fly himself. My favorite part of this issue: Alex Marks, who can be the Fly *without* being the Fly.

Carmine! I don't read much DC, so I've only seen rare instances of your work. After seeing HUMAN FLY #2, I have only one thing to say: YOU ARE SO GOOD!!!! Dan Green did wonderful things with your wonderful pencils. Really looking at your work for the first time since I began studying art, I wonder how many artists in comics could avoid being influenced by your pervasive style! Sutton, Byrne, Chaykin? Anyway, I love it. In my occasionally sexist opinion, you've suddenly made Harmony Whyte the dream-woman of the month, not to mention the fine job you did on the Fly, as well. *Now* I'm looking forward to SPIDER WOMAN!

Brian Nelson
4213 Great Oak Road
Rockville, Md 20853

Dear Marvel People,

Howzabout this for the title of the lettercol of your great new mag featuring your wonderful new hero, The Human Fly...FLY PAPERS!??

By the way, I have a complaint (only one, mind you). In your ads for the first issue of THE HUMAN FLY, you say that he's America's real-life superhero, when he is, in reality, *Canada's!!*

Well, until the Human Fly gets swatted...

John Tkackuk
& Perry Prete
Warren, Ontario, Canada

Check out the banner above your letter, fellas, for your first suggestion. As for your complaint, you're right, we stand corrected and, if you'll send us your return address, a double no-prize will wing its way northward in the morning mail.

Dear Marvel,

Some suggestions for Marvel's newest hit:

(1) Have super-heroes guest-star for the first several months.
(2) Have the Fly face super-villains; after all, he's a super-hero, not Evel Knievel.
(3) Keep Carmine Infantino on the book. It's great to see him at Marvel after all these years.
(4) Have a story set in Philadelphia. The only Marvel stories I can remember were the Captain America/Madbomb series, and a Spider-Man story from years ago.
(5) And my suggestion for the name of the letters column...FLY PAPERS.

Joseph Iannacone
2115 S. 11th Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19148

In order, Joe:

(1) We did, in the first two issues. Now we'd like to give the Fly a few issue workout on his own.
(2) Maybe, but not extremely likely for the present. The Fly, remember, is "real" and, while we can fiddle around with certain reality-crossovers, we don't want to push it too far just yet. But, hey, we could be wrong! What do the rest of you think?
(3) Carmine's was a one-issue fill-in. With HUMAN FLY #'s 3 and 4 we return to the fantastic pencils of Lee Elias, another former DC artist of the 50's and early 60's. Then, in issue #5 Frank Robbins lends an artistic hand while Lee gets to work on #6.
(4) Why not? We're even toying with the idea of having the Fly meet Rocky.
(5) Done.

Dear Sirs:

I have read your magazine, THE HUMAN FLY, and I found it very interesting, to say the least. I recognized the Fly from that late-night talk show that is broadcast up here in Canada, 90 MINUTES LIVE.

I am pleased to see a mag on the stands that will give some hope to the millions of handicapped people in the world. I would like to make a suggestion, but I know it is probably economically impossible—why don't you try putting THE HUMAN FLY in Braille, for the blind?

I know from experience what it is like to be handicapped. I myself have a mild form of Cerebral Palsy that causes me to limp, as well as a grand mal Epilepsya and a mild asthma. My girlfriend is confined to a wheelchair because of Cerebral Palsy. Although a cripple from birth, she has remarkable self-confidence and courage.

I hope that you will do a number of stories using Canada as a location. After all, the Fly is Canadian. Thank you.

Paul Chiasson
3241 Hinchey Avenue, New Waterford
Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada B1H2L5

Paul, you are most sincerely welcome. The HUMAN FLY #5 takes us up north to Canada for a hair-raising climb up the side of a blazing skyscraper. Stick with us, Mr. Chiasson—it's letters like yours that give *us* hope, and keep us on the right track.

Dear Marvel People,

I think it was a sensational idea making a super-hero out of a real-life daredevil. Keep up the good work!

Mike Yocom
8109 Hendrix, NE #413
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Dear Marvel,

Only you could put out a blockbuster like THE HUMAN FLY! I'm sure it's going to become one of the best mags around. The art, writing—everything was perfect. You're doing a great job!

Glenn Hall
26 St. Andrews Avenue
Mount Pearl, Newfoundland, Canada A1N1C9

Dear Arch, Bill, Lee, Carmine, Dan, Joe, Irv, Marie and the Fly,

All I can say is (calmly), YAHOOOOO! HE'S GREAT!

Thank you.

Brian Edson
4783 Old Briar Road
Douglasville, GA 30135